

New Bedford
May 5th 1878

Mr A. A. Dooley

My Dear Sir

Your favor
of the second inst. came
to hand yesterday. In
replying to your inquiries
I will endeavor to give you
some idea of the bust I
have made of Thorpe and
the circumstances by which
I was influenced. I had
the acquaintance of Mr
T for some eight years during
which time he made

visits at our house
and I also visited
him at his home in
Concord. He was not so
much my guest at New-
Bedford as my Father
but kindred tastes and
a high appreciation of
his Character and genius
caused me to look up to
him as one of ~~our~~ the
most remarkable men
of our time.

Some years
after his death I became
interested in Sculpture
and after making some

successful portrait
both in medallion and
full bust felt very desirous
of attempting a bust
of our friend. In doing
this my first wish was to
if possible express the
nobler traits of his
character, his strong
individuality - intellect
and perhaps most of
all and which impressed
me most his transcendent
philosophy. In trying to
gain these points I omitted
as much as possible

Minor details and
strove to make a
head indicative of a
hoble deep thinking original
Man. Whether I succeeded
is not for me to say as
under the circumstances
I can only judge for myself;
Mr F. B. Lawton of Concord
saw it a few years ago
but looking for a likeness
of Thoreau the Poet I fear
was not satisfied. Most
people get their idea of
him from Rowse's Crayon
Portrait which to me is
not like the man I knew

too much of the indoor
student delicate and
sensitive, not suggestive
of a man inured to
storms, and the friend
alike of the wood chopper
and the wood chaser.

The only really reliable
likeness I had to help
me in my work was an
ambrotype taken here about
a year before he died, a
most admirable picture,
representing him with a
full beard which he
wore during his latter
years and by which his

face was never
improved. Adding both
grace and dignity. This
and the remembrance
of him and a hasty
pen and ink profile by
my father were my
materials. Could I only
have had a mask
from his face after death
it would have been of
incalculable value
to me. —

I have to day
enjoyed a ^{photo.} print of
a view in my studio

in which the bus is
the most important
object and will send
it to you as soon as
possible - If after
seeing the photo you
should like a copy of
the bus I will purchase
one for \$25.00

Hoping the photo
may meet your approval

I am very truly yrs

Walton Rebertson